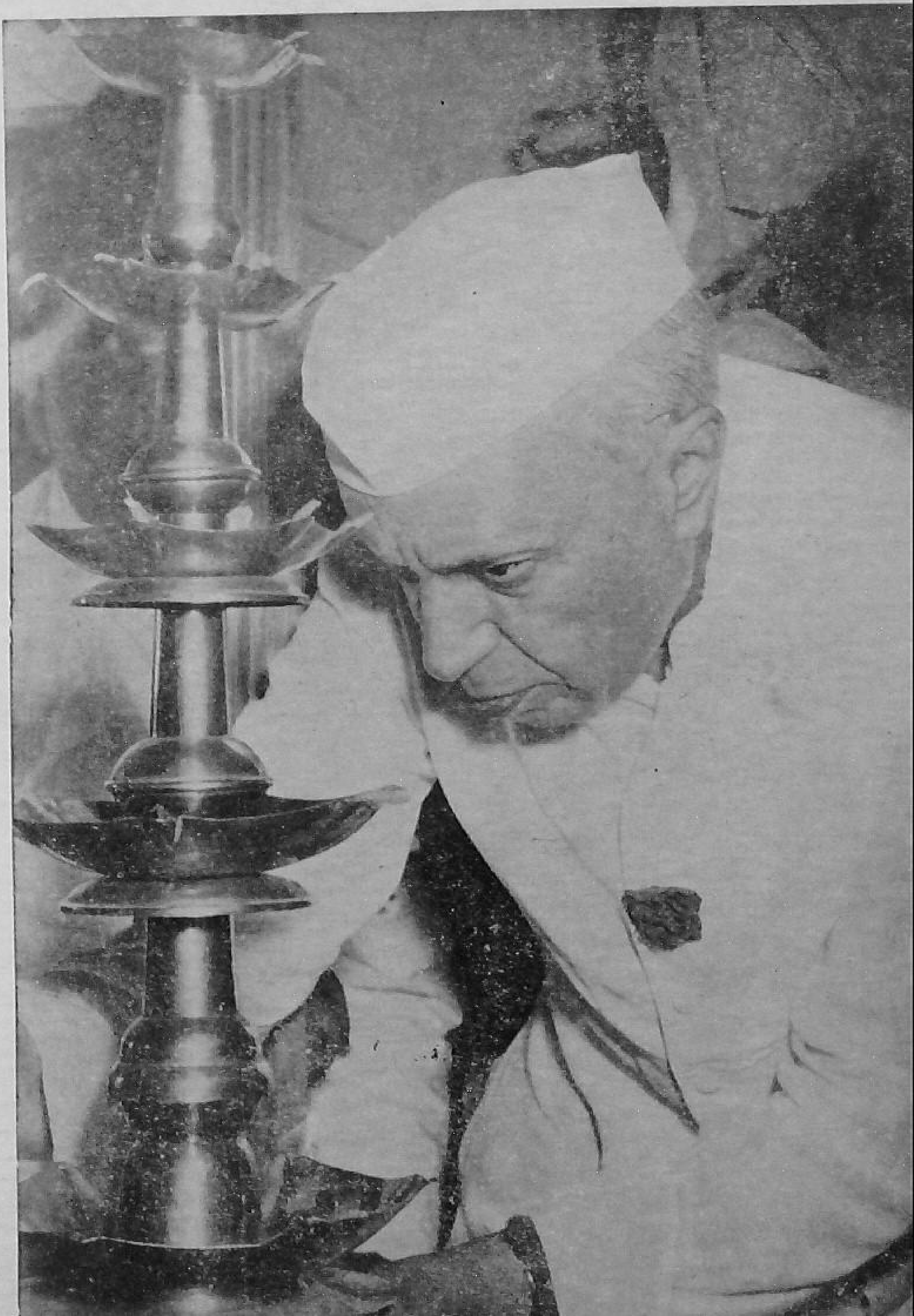
Panchayati Raj

3263

C/8/7

JUNE 1964

It was our beloved Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru who kindled the light of Panchayati Raj on 2nd October, 1959 at Nagaur (Rajasthan). He is no more with us. But let the light that he passed on to us be kept burning for ever.



NEHRU'S WILL

When I die, I should like my body to be cremated. If I die in a foreign country, my body should be cremated there and my ashes sent to Allahabad. A small handful of these ashes should be thrown into the Ganga and the major portion of them disposed of in the manner indicated below. No part of these ashes should be retained or preserved..................

The major portion of my ashes should, however, be disposed of otherwise. I want these to be carried high up into the air in an aeroplane and scattered from that height over the fields where the peasants of India toil, so that they might mingle with the dust and soil of India and become an indistinguishable part of India....................

Vol. V JUNE 1964 No. 3
JYAISTHA 1886

CONTENTS

LETTERS	1
HOMAGE OR DEDICATION ? —*S. K. Dey*	2
THUS SPAKE THE MASTER	4
A PEOPLE'S LOVE	5
FROM OBSCURITY TO FAME —*P. N. V. Rao*	6
A FARMER WITH A DIFFERENCE	8
IMPROVED METHODS HELP LARGER YIELDS	9
LOK SABHA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	10
COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE	12
FROM THE CENTRE ..	14

EDITOR : VISHNU DUTT

BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 nP.
Annual : Rs. 1·25

All enquiries regarding agencies and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

LETTERS

WITHER ZILA PARISHAD ?

Sir,

PANCHAYATI RAJ in Uttar Pradesh is now more than two years old. But the picture it presents is far from rosy. Thanks to Panchayati Raj institutions, State politics which till the other day was confined to cities and towns has seeped down to the villages. Confused thinking is discernible at every level, particularly in the Zila Parishads. The way Zila Parishads are functioning at the moment makes one sit up and rub his eyes in amazement. Programme planning for the entire district, which is supposed to be the main task of the body is practically non-existent. Its financial resources mostly consist of Government grants for specified schemes and programmes. The amounts it raises by way of taxes are meagre. It is not surprising, therefore, that it functions merely as a distributing agency of Governmental funds. The District Planning Officer, who happens to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Parishad, functions in isolation, while the District-level technical officers are going their own way without apparently bothering about the Zila Parishads. Heads of the State Development departments rarely attend Parishad's meetings. The various provisions made in the U.P. Zila Parishads and Kshetra Samitis Act for transferring powers to these two Panchayati Raj bodies have not been implemented so far because rules of business have not been framed and official functionaries at various levels are opposed to it. No wonder that Zila Parishads which are supposed to be instruments for the regeneration of rural communities are languishing. It is really a very sorry state of affairs and deserves immediate attention of all concerned.

Yours etc.,
Har Narayan Singh

30-4-64
Basti
Uttar Pradesh

NATIONAL FORUM ON PANCHAYATI RAJ

Sir,

ONE IMPORTANT fact brought out by the National Seminar on Panchayati Raj held at Udaipur is that there exists wide divergance amongst eminent public men on various fundamental aspects of Panchayati Raj. There is perhaps far too much variety in the constitution, methods of elections and the powers and functions of Panchayati Raj bodies from State to State. While a certain amount of variety is understandable and even desirable in the context of differing socio-cultural conditions prevailing in various parts of the country, yet there is need for a clear-cut and well defined policy on certain basic issues. In a democracy this unanimity of approach cannot be superimposed from above. This can only be brought about through a process of thinking and discussions on a common platform. There was a pressing necessity for such a National Forum on the lines of the National Council on Study and Research in Community

(Continued on page 7)

Homage or Dedication?

He was sleeping. He will not wake up. He looked unconcerned alike to the tears and silent groans as to the outbursts of the multitudes that streamed by. Like a child exhausted, he slept on.

A tornado in the Indian scene from the moment the national struggle for liberation became real; within India and without he was everywhere whenever man was challenged, whenever "yesterday" conspired against and threatened the dawn of tomorrow.

Bapu is the father of the nation. He has been the brother. The giant and the dwarf had free access to him. The Pontiff of the low found in him a kin. Even to the profane he did not shut the door, for he believed "all men are brothers".

He aimed a mortal blow to witchcraft, to the high priests who profited from the rituals of dead yesterday. He gave to India a vision of "Tomorrow" and the role she should play in the next phase of the evolution of man.

To socialism he gave a new meaning and intent. Panchayati Raj, Sahkari Samaj and Samashtik Vikash came in as the three pillars with a new mandate. These were to form the base of the new democracy he dreamt of.

Critics laughed, cynics sneered. He stood unmoved for he had faith in his people. He proclaimed "It is the quality of the human being that counts". He knew, the nation to endure, could not run very far ahead of its particles.

"He is gone" they say. They know not what they say. For only the body that we taxed without mercy, has revolted and taken its silent retreat for the respite which was its due. The spirit is alive - Lo! it shines effulgent as ever before.

The great laboratories, the mammoth dams, bridges and highways, giant factories, universities, colleges, schools and nurseries, state farms and kitchen gardens, amphitheatres and the pastoral gatherings - all bear the stamp of the master artist, which time cannot efface.

To those who are today and the generations to come he has thrown a mighty challenge. Do we comprehend and accept what he loved and lived for, or we claim him but for private profit? The future alone will tell.

The "Jawahar" embodied the richest fulfilment - the choicest out of the crucible. Jawaharlal Nehru is no more. Jawaharlal Nehru, the spirit supreme, will live for ever in the heart and minds of men and women who uphold and pursue the "tryst with destiny".

May 27, 1964

THUS SPAKE THE MASTER

The cause of Panchayati Raj was very dear to the heart of our late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. He took an active interest in the success of the movement ever since he formally inaugurated it in Rajasthan on 2nd October, 1959. Now that the Master is gone, it is pertinent to recall a bit of what he had said on the subject—Editor.

THE REAL CHANGE

THE REAL change comes, of course, from within the village, from the very people living in the village, and is not imposed from outside. It is a process of self-development and self-reliance. The outsider can only help a little, give some guidance or a push here and there. That little help may, of course, be of the greatest importance or it can light a flame which will shed its light over a very much wider area. But the test of success is how far the people of a village shoulder their own burdens and have developed a spirit of self-reliance and mutual co-operation.

I am also convinced that there should be a growing measure of decentralisation and delegation of authority. There is a danger in this and a risk of things going awry because of lack of experience or training. That risk should be faced cheerfully. In the long run it is only by spreading out responsibility that we will train our people.

** ** ** **

SIZE OF A PANCHAYAT

IT IS essential that the people of a panchayat should know one another and work like a family. If a village is too small, two or three villages can be combined. I do not think that the size of the panchayat should be determined by the resources only. It should be according to the number of people who can work on a co-operative basis.

** ** ** **

PANCHAYATS AND POWER

SOME OF you may remember what Lenin said once in the early days of the Soviet revolution. He said, "communism is Soviets plus electricity". I am prepared to accept that for India saying—not communism—but progress is panchayats plus electric power—a slight variation of the theme. Electricity is the main thing. Electric power means the motive force for changing things, for modernising things, for modern industry, modern agriculture; and the panchayat is the panchayat, whether small panchayat or big panchayat, which is Parliament; panchayats plus electric power will change India.

** ** ** **

REVOLUTIONARY EVENT

THE ESTABLISHMENT of Panchayati Raj in some States and the promise that it will be extended to the other States is an event of revolutionary significance. The transfer of authority and of development work to the panchayat samitis is likely to change the whole background in our rural areas and make the people there more self-reliant and conscious of their responsibilities. There may be some difficulties in the beginning, but I am sure that the step is in the right direction and will yield fruitful results.

** ** ** **

MIGHTY MOVEMENT

PANCHAYATI RAJ is a mighty experiment. It might not succeed in every part of India, but the conception is a tremendous one. It is succeeding somewhere and it will succeed in the major part of India. You can pick out here and there and say that it has not succeeded. Some panches might have misbehaved as anybody has misbehaved. I would beg of the House to consider the entire background, this enormous country with an enormous population on the move, in a certain direction which I think is the right direction. Many people stumble and fall. Many people make mistakes. Many people betray the objective we aim at. All this is happening, and yet the whole trend is forward and in the right direction.

** ** ** **

SOMETHING BASIC

I AM at a stage when I am full of enthusiasm for panchayati raj. I do feel that it is something basic and revolutionary in the context of India to establish it in the 5,00,000 or more

(*Continued on page 5*)

A PEOPLE'S LOVE

I HAVE RECEIVED SO MUCH LOVE AND AFFECTION FROM THE INDIAN PEOPLE THAT NOTHING THAT I CAN DO CAN REPAY EVEN A SMALL FRACTION OF IT, AND INDEED THERE CAN BE NO REPAYMENT OF SO PRECIOUS A THING AS AFFECTION. MANY HAVE BEEN ADMIRED, SOME HAVE BEEN REVERED, BUT THE AFFECTION OF ALL CLASSES OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE HAS COME TO ME IN SUCH ABUNDANT MEASURE THAT I HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY IT. I CAN ONLY EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT IN THE REMAINING YEARS I MAY LIVE, I SHALL NOT BE UNWORTHY OF MY PEOPLE AND THEIR AFFECTION.

(From Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's Will)

A 24-YEAR-old woman in a Kutch village died of shock after hearing of Mr. Nehru's sudden death. In 1962, in spite of her indifferent health she had come from her village to Bhuj district headquarters town to attend a public meeting addressed by Mr. Nehru on the eve of the general elections.

** ** ** **

THE GIRL who lost her legs and was helped to get artificial ones, the teacher from Dehra Dun, and many others like them were at the Prime Minister's residence to offer their condolence and pay homage.

** ** ** **

A GRIEFSTRICKEN tourist from Delhi collapsed while listening to the A.I.R. commentary on the funeral of Mr. Nehru and died before any medical aid could be given to him. The tourist, Mr. Madan Lal Bajaj, was staying with his family in a local hotel at Mussoorie.

A BLIND man standing amongst the multitude of crowds that had gathered to watch the funeral procession of the Prime Minister. Shri Nehru, was heard inquiring time and again from the passers by if the cortege carrying Shri Nehru's dead body had passed. Someone pointed out, "But you can't see." The blind man replied, "Yes. But I have seen him in my youth and I embody his image in my heart!"

** ** ** **

THE VILLAGERS of Jawahar Nagar in Kutch district, Gujarat took a decision that no marriage will take place for one year in mourning of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. This little village formerly called Jhuran was rebuilt from the ruins of an earthquake in 1956. The same year Mr. Nehru visited the village and the villagers renamed it as Jawahar Nagar in his honour.

THUS SPAKE THE MASTER

(*Continued from page 4*)

villages of India. It excites my imagination to think of this vast network of domestic, representative institutions working right at the ground level from the villages upwards. Democracy is not merely Parliament at the top or Legislatures in the States but something which excites every person and which trains everyone to take his proper place and indeed any place in the country, if need arises. I have said, and have meant it, that Panchayati Raj is ultimately meant to train every individual in India to be a potential Prime Minister. I know everyone cannot be Prime Minister, but I am sure that vast numbers of people can be trained up for services of the country.

OFFICIALS, ADVISERS NOT BOSSES

WHEN WE talked of Panchayati Raj many people were rather doubtful about the capacity of our people to shoulder this burden. I was certain they would make mistakes. Nevertheless, I knew we shall get over this difficulty and gradually develop the system of self-government at every stage. There can be no half-way house in this vital matter. Either you trust the people or you do not. Trusting them partly takes you nowhere, because it does not give them real responsibility and they do not develop properly. Having given this authority and power to them, you should not tamper with it by official interference. Let them make mistakes and let them suffer for those mistakes. The officials must only be advisers; they must not be bosses.

From Obscurity To Fame

Saga of An Andhra Village

P. N. V. RAO

RANGAMPET is no tourist spot; neither it has temples of eminence to boast of. Its roads are dusty and dwelling houses are mud-built. Its agriculture is still dependent on the rains, and for most of its 3500 people, life is an unremitting struggle against poverty and the vagaries of Nature. It is one of those hundreds and thousands of villages which dot India's countryside.

For the Panchayat of such a village to be adjudged the best in Andhra Pradesh last year means a lot. It proves the tremendous potentialities of the inhabitants eagerly awaiting mobilisation for the task of regenerating their economy. The people are poor, unsophisticated and traditionbound. But, they are a confident and self-reliant lot, with a wealth of fellow-feeling and determined to work together for the welfare of the community. The fortunate few who are better off than the others are ever ready to share whatever they have with the others for the good of the community. And above all, their broadness of vision and social consciousness have helped the Panchayat to break new ground in the sphere of development works and to earn the distinction of being the best Panchayat in the State. No wonder that Harijans who constitute nearly 30 per cent of the Panchayat population are not a disdained and neglected lot, left to fend for themselves. On the contrary, the Harijans receive the most sympathetic treatment from the entire village community and social prejudices do not stand in the way of their being helped towards a fuller and happier life. The village elders were quick to realise that without active cooperation of a substantial section of the population, Rangampet's social and economic progress would be a halting and lopsided one. The realisation found expression in concrete works aimed at ameliorating the condition of these down-trodden people. As a result, on the last day of each month, observed as "Harijan Day" the villagers undertake "Shramdan" works in Harijanwadas. Lanes are cleaned and rubbish dumped into bins. Harijans are told of the dangers of insanitary living and are persuaded to replace their unhealthy houses and build better ones on bigger plots. This approach has started paying dividends. Harijanwadas, as a result, have taken on a new look. Community bathrooms and latrines have been provided in these colonies as a step to improve sanitary conditions.

It is of interest to know how this enlightened Panchayat planned and executed its welfare activities during the year. The activities, no doubt, were many and varied. But the success achieved in the fields of Agriculture, Health, Education and Women's Welfare are worth recounting.

AGRICULTURE

The total area cultivated during the year was 2,643 acres giving an 8 per cent increase over the cultivated area in 1961-62. For progressive farmers, ideas as well as tools came from the Young Farmers Club. Started in May, 1962, the Club with 25 members supplied improved agricultural implements, fertilisers and pesticides.

Three cooperative societies are in operation in the Panchayat area and they provide credit to the farmers, while a fourth one,—a small industrial cooperative takes care of village artisans such as potters, brick-layers and tile-makers. Membership in all these societies in 1962-63 was 441. Loans amounting to Rs. 19,835 were distributed during the year. Repayment of loans, instalmentwise, was regular. Bad debts and outstanding amounts were conspicuously absent.

HEALTH

There is a veterinary dispensary which takes care of the village cattle (2,403) and poultry (1,614). The dispensary has been possible due to local philanthropy. The villagers gave the

site, also met the cost of building *i.e.*, a sum of Rs. 7,000. They collected Rs. 3,000 more for medicines and equipment. Some 7,000 animals were treated in 1962-63.

The Primary Health Centre is another landmark in Rangampet's better health drive. The two-acre site where the Centre stands, is the gift of a local land-owner. Five others contributed to the cost of the building. Declared open on November 1, 1962, the Primary Health Centre has been responsible for Rangampet receiving a "nil casualty" certificate for the year. The village was totally free from epidemics in 1962-63.

For village sanitation, Rangampet Panchayat does not employ separate staff. This is a community work for the people. Squads of volunteers take turn to sweep the roads.

EDUCATION

Rangampet's record in education is noteworthy. Four elementary schools provide free education to 500 boys and girls in the main village. Two hamlets in the Panchayat area, have one school each. Buildings for all these schools have been donated by the people of the village. In the school at Chandrodu hamlet scouting is a compulsory extra-curricular activity.

The Youth League, formed in January, 1962, leads in social work. The Leaguers collected Rs. 6,000 for the Youth League House, besides Rs. 300 to equip it with books and equipments for indoor games. In the same year, the Youth League constructed a public park and donated it to the village, as a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

The Village Volunteer Force has not lagged behind. Besides taking part in constructive works like digging and widening irrigation channels, members of the VVF conducted classes on mass education. At group meetings, the role of people in National Emergency was explained. Discussions were held on the significance of planned progress and importance of national integration. Rangampet's contribution to the National Defence Fund has been significant. Till the end of 1963, the contributions totalled Rs. 5,646.

WOMEN'S ROLE

Rangampet's progress is not a record of men only. Through the Mahila Mandal, women too, have rallied to the cause with sustained enthusiasm. Common problems, family planning included, are discussed at weekly meetings. While prayer groups and song parties promote piety and God-awareness, concern was evinced for material betterment. New recipes now go to add to culinary skills. Charkha spinning and dress-making are taught as profitable pastimes. Small Savings idea has been popularised. The members, as a result, are investing Rs. 95 every month under the cumulative deposit scheme.

The Mahila Mandal owes a lot to the Mukhya Sevika who co-ordinates its work. No wonder that the women of the village speak fondly of the "young lady on the bicycle"—thereby meaning the Mukhya Sevika.

NO POLITICS

Rangampet shuns politics. Here, each is for all, and all are for each. Factions do not mar social unity and common endeavour. Those who have, are ready to contribute for the common cause. Leadership is compact and well-knit by bonds of mutual understanding. Harmony between official agencies and unofficial leadership has greatly contributed to Rangampet's estimable place in the growth of Panchayat Raj and Gram Swaraj in this area.

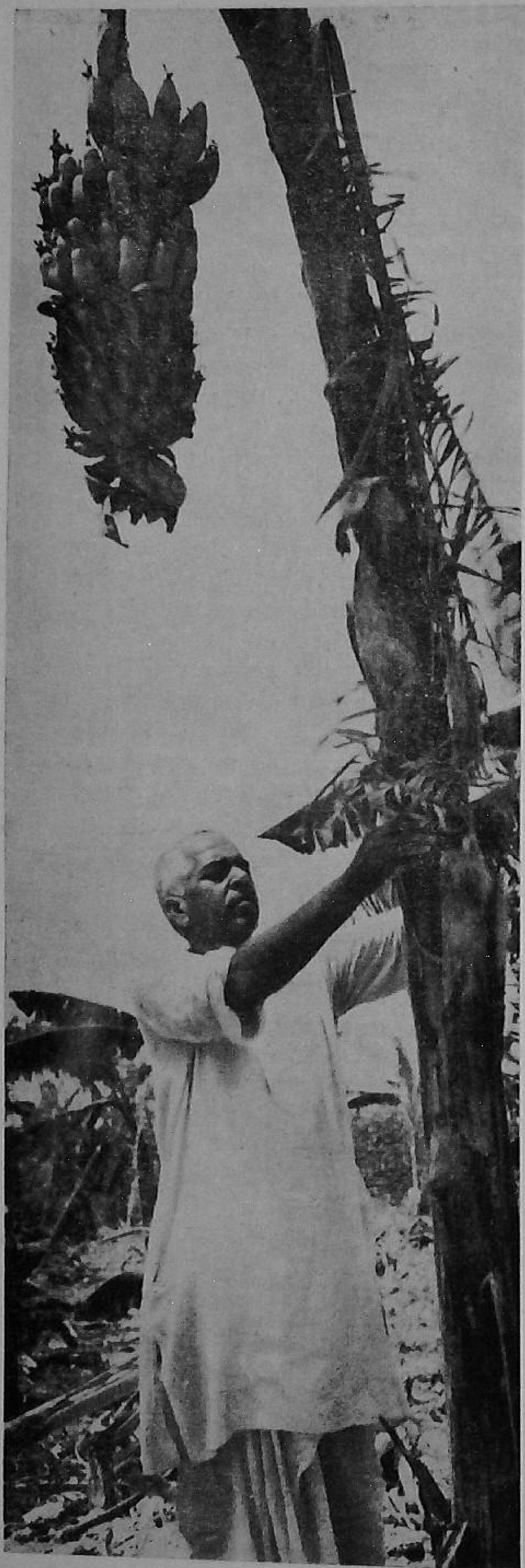
LETTERS

(*Continued from page 1*)

Development. The Government have done well to set up an Advisory Council on Panchayati Raj represented by eminent public men, social workers, administrators and other men having practical experience of Panchayati Raj. The recommendations of such a body will have far-reaching effect on the formulation of policies on Panchayati Raj and their implementation. It will go a long way to build up a strong public opinion in favour of the Panchayati Raj set-up being properly enshrined in the Constitution.

13-3-64
Mehpalpur,
Delhi

Yours etc.,
Roshan Lal



A FARMER WITH A DIFFERENCE

A THREE-FOLD increase in the average yield of wheat per acre is easily possible only if a cultivator takes full advantage of the facilities provided by the Community Development programme. In the Barhaj Block of Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh where at one time the average yield per acre of wheat was only ten maunds, Shri Harihar Singh, a cultivator is now usually getting 30 maunds of wheat per acre.

Shri Singh, who even at 60 years of age is full of energy, initiative and enterprise, does not believe in complete mechanisation of agriculture. Even though he can purchase a tractor to plough his 90 acres of land, he has denied himself the machine, for, in his view, the eight pairs of bullocks he has, are more dependable than the lifeless machine, which according to him takes out of the land its wealth without replenishing its fertility.

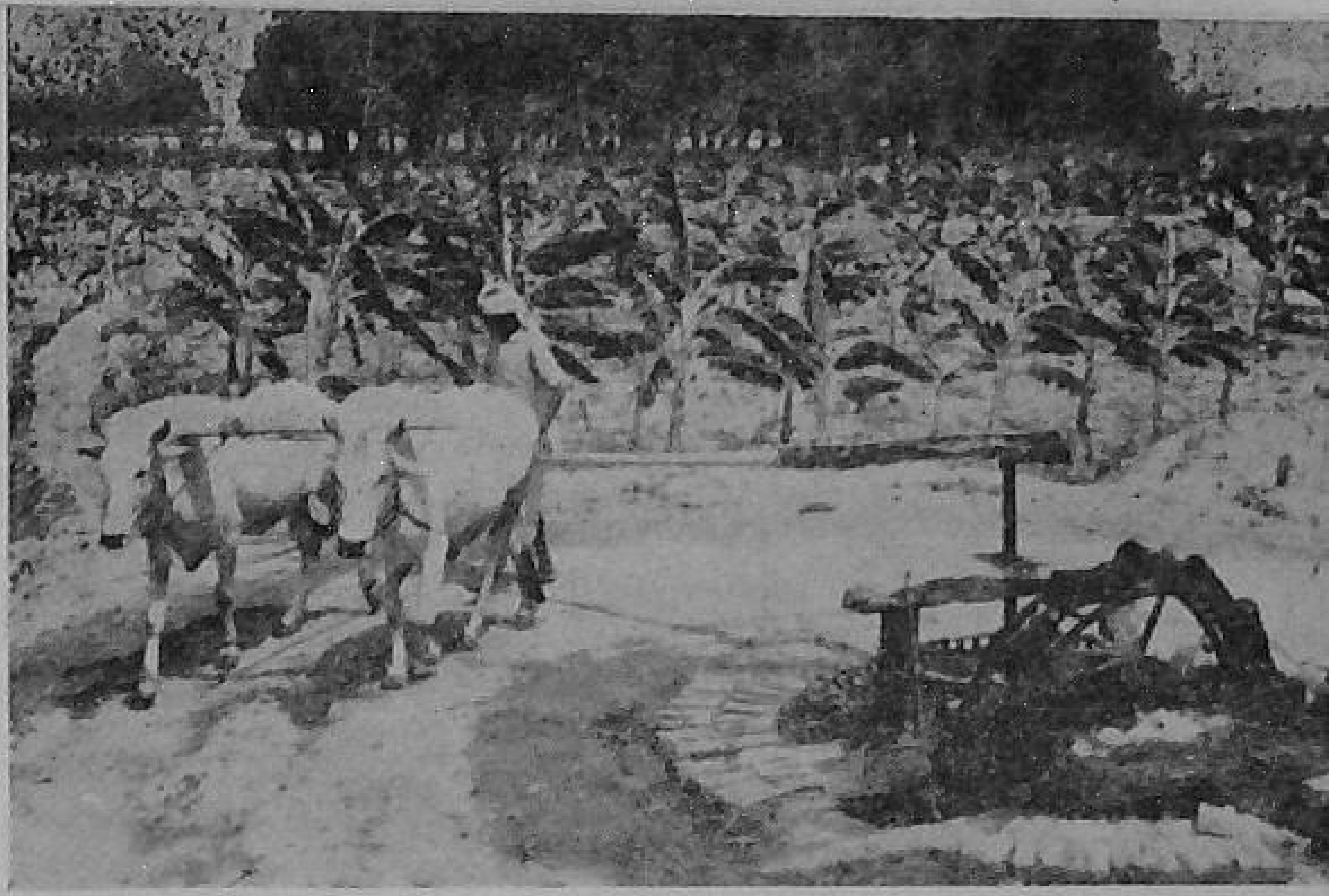
But while not in favour of machines, Shri Singh is a staunch protagonist of the use of standard varieties of improved seeds and small types of improved agricultural implements such as chaff-cutter, hand-hoe and weeder. His fields are saturated with the Japanese method of paddy cultivation and the U.P. method of wheat cultivation.

Apart from 90 acres of agricultural land, Shri Singh has developed a 16-acre orchard on the advice and with the aid of development authorities. He has planted banana trees on five acres which yield him an income of Rs. 5,000 a year. Mango and bamboo groves yield Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,000 respectively. The orchard is soon expected to supplement his income by Rs. 10,000 a year.

Shri Harihar Singh attending to a plantain tree in his orchard.

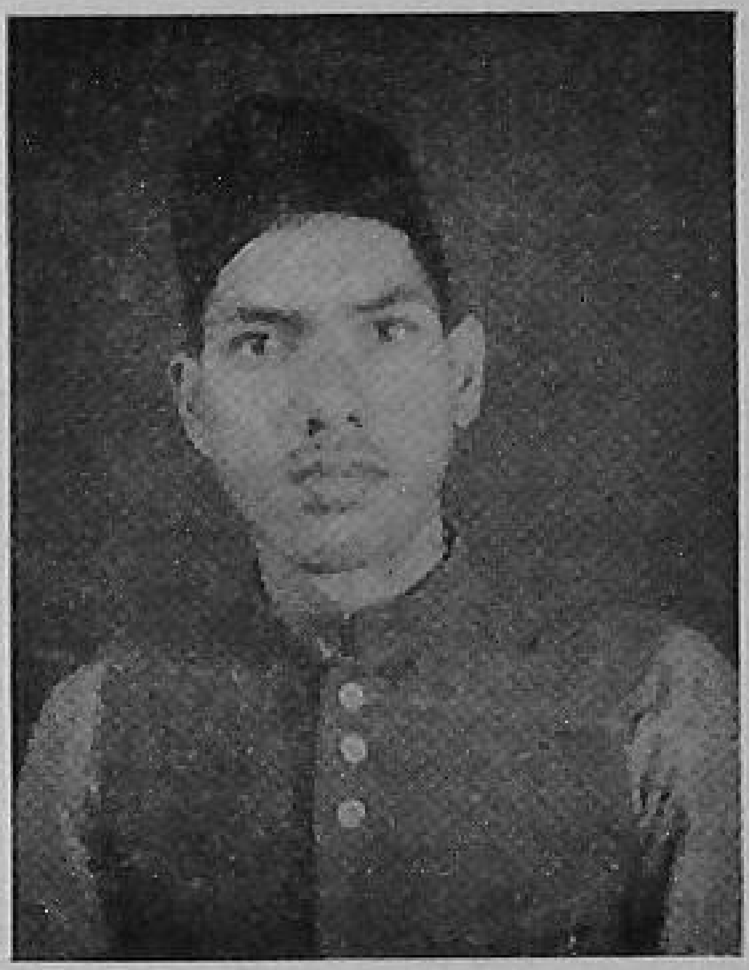
Shri Singh has no inhibitions where taking loans from Government is concerned. He makes the fullest use of the facility and is never late in repaying the loans he takes.

The example set up by Shri Singh has caught up all over the Barhaj Block where the farmer has become plan-conscious, ready to adopt modern methods of cultivation in so far as they suit local conditions. And the improvement in the economic condition of the Block has attracted the attention of the adjoining Blocks where the farmers are fast taking to the methods and practices of agriculture now prevailing in Barhaj.



Persian wheel fitted to the well helps irrigate Harihar Singh's banana orchard

---



Anand Mohan Mishra

IMPROVED METHODS HELP LARGER YIELDS

ANAND MOHAN MISHRA, a young farmer of Bhatora—a small village in Katghora Block of Bilaspur District in Madhya Pradesh has hit the headlines. In an area where the average yield of paddy per acre is only 20 maunds this young farmer has created a sensation by producing 134 maunds of paddy on an acre of land during the last Kharif season. No wonder that Mishra's success has encouraged the farmers of the area to take to the latest techniques of agriculture.

Mishra's success did not come in the matter of fact way. This young, energetic and progressive farmer was ever on the lookout to produce more from his fields, and was keen to learn new techniques which could help him achieve the goal. It was, therefore, natural that the Agricultural Extension Officer who visited this village two years ago in connection with the preparation of the Village Production Plan, found in Anand Mohan Mishra a very keen and willing farmer eager to experiment with new ideas.

The Extension Officer answered various questions put by the young farmer and asked him to enter the crop competitions conducted by the Agriculture Department. Anand Mohan evinced great interest in the scheme and decided to try his luck in the competition.

The Agricultural Extension Officer guided him and gave him useful tips about the ways and means of increasing yield of paddy per acre. The next paddy crop that Mishra got was a

(*Continued on page 16*)

Lok Sabha Questions & Answers

Below we give a gist of some of the important questions raised and answers given in the Budget Session of the Lok Sabha.—Editor.

Q. How is the proposal to advance taccavi loans through Co-operatives being implemented?

A. The scheme is to be implemented according to a phased programme, to be carefully worked out by each State Government. The States of Maharashtra, Madras, Gujerat, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have started implementing the policy. Others have yet to fall in line. In isolated pockets where the co-operative structure has not yet come into being, State Governments will continue to disburse Taccavi direct, till the co-operative structure is built up.

Q. What is the object of the revised scheme for member education and leadership training for non-official personnel of the co-operatives?

A. The objective is to arrange training for office-bearers and managing committee members of co-operative societies; and honorary/part-time secretaries and managers of co-operative societies who are called upon to undertake the day-to-day functioning of the co-operatives. With the association of block extension staff including the village level workers, the training will be more broad-based and effective.

Q. What progress has been achieved under the programme of providing credit to farmers during the first three years of the Third Five Year Plan?

A. Against a target of Rs. 512 crores set up by the State Governments for the supply of short and medium-term credit during the last year of the plan, the co-operatives supplied Rs. 228 crores in 1961-62. The provisional figures for 1962-63 are Rs. 256 crores and the estimate for 1963-64 is Rs. 318 crores. The progress is not up to expectation. The reasons are :—(a) weakness of the credit structure particularly at the primary level, (b) organisational deficiencies, (c) increasing trend of overdues, (d) defective loaning policies,. etc. In the sphere of long-term credit, against a target of Rs. 150 crores (outstanding) set up for the last year of the plan, the achievement during 1961-62 was about Rs. 46 crores and the estimates for 1962-63 and 1963-64 are Rs. 63 crores and 83 crores. It may be possible to achieve the target very nearly if adequate Government and institutional support is available to the debentures of the Land Mortgage Banks. Besides credit through co-operatives the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 24.3 crores and Rs. 29.01 crores to State Governments to enable them to give short-term credit in cash/kind to farmers for fertilisers and seeds. During 1963-64 this is likely to go up to Rs. 30 crores.

Q. What is the policy laid down by Government in entrusting wholesale dealing to a primary store?

A. (1) In areas where, federal pattern of organisation is adopted, the central store takes up wholesale dealers' activities for its affiliated primary stores.

(2) In areas where unitary pattern is adopted the primary consumers co-operative store, with branches, takes up wholesale dealers' activities.

(3) In areas where, a mixed pattern of organisation is adopted, decision will depend on the character of the society.

Q. One of the avowed objectives of the Consumer Co-operatives is to supply quality goods to consumers. What steps have been taken to achieve the same?

A. Following steps have been taken in this connection —

(i) Arrangements for supply of quality goods directly from the manufacturers and imports of goods through co-operative organisations;

(ii) provision of facilities of proper storage;

(iii) Close co-ordination between marketing societies and consumers' co-operatives to enable purchase of genuine produce at source;

(iv) Encouraging processing activities by consumers' stores themselves;

(v) Encouraging cleaning and packaging of goods to the extent possible;

(vi) Adequate supervision by the State Cooperative Department at appropriate stages.

Q. What is the number of pilot projects on cooperative farming set up in the country during 1963-64, and the number of cooperative farming wings that are to be established during 1964-65, State-wise ?

A. 74 pilot projects were set up during 1963-64. The maximum number of pilot projects (13) were set up in Uttar Pradesh. The next State to follow is Kerala with 12 projects. The number of pilot projects established in other States during the year is as follows: Assam (3), Gujarat (3), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan—7 each, Madras and Maharashtra—6 each, Mysore (8), Punjab (5), and West Bengal (4). No new pilot projects were set up in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. However Societies were organized in the pilot projects selected in the first two years of the Third Plan.

Two cooperative farming wings are to be established during 1964-65. They will be started in the States of Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Q. What are the details of the recent proposals of the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation regarding Village Volunteer Force ?

A. It is proposed that matching assistance, in terms of works programmes, may be provided to such of the Panchayat Samitis where the response to the Village Volunteer Force is above a prescribed minimum. The proposals envisage the linking of the Rural Works Programme with the Village Volunteer Force for this purpose. The proposals are under the consideration of the Planning Commission.

Q. What is the present stage of implementation of the scheme of Applied Nutrition in different States and Union Territories ?

A. The Applied Nutrition Programme is being implemented in 179 Blocks in nine States and one Union Territory. Other States and Union Territories are expected to start it during the current year. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, and Uttar Pradesh have already completed the training of personnel under the Programme at various levels. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Punjab, West Bengal, and Himachal Pradesh, where the Programme was started in November 1963 have also initiated the training programme. UNICEF is supplying the necessary equipment to the Blocks/Training Institutions for implementing the Programme.

Q. What are the salient features of the action programme for providing cooperative credit to the farmers in the districts selected for intensive agricultural development ?

A. The following are the salient features of the Action Programme :—

(a) Credit is to be production-oriented and is to be determined on the basis of needs and repaying capacity of the recipients. Credit required for fertilisers, pesticides, seeds etc., should be disbursed in kind. There should be 'seasonability' in the timing of disbursement of credit and its recovery.

(b) Primary agricultural credit societies should increase their share capital and collect compulsory thrift deposits.

(c) A quick study should be undertaken to identify potentially viable societies and efforts should be made to make them viable in a specified period. Societies not likely to be viable should be reorganised through amalgamation and defunct societies should be liquidated.

(d) Central cooperative banks should be strengthened and their operational efficiency improved. They should be entrusted with the responsibility for supervision of primary agricultural credit societies.

(e) The State Governments should intimate to the Reserve Bank the districts selected for the programme so that the Bank may undertake a special inspection of the banks with particular reference to the requirements of the programme.

(f) Overdues have to be arrested, recovery mindedness has to be developed and procedures laid down for dealing with defaulters should be set in motion without fear or favour.

(g) Marketing should be intensified and organically linked with credit programme.

(h) Adequate staff should be appointed in the Department for which financial assistance from the Centre will be available on the existing pattern.

Community on the Move

GRAPE CULTIVATION

BADYALI, a remote village covered with sand dunes in Nagaur district of Rajasthan, where nature has never been favourable, is cultivating grapes this summer. Two progressive farmers of Badyali had planted two vine saplings last year. Each vine spread over an area 100 sq. ft. yielded one maund and 20 seers of grapes.

Encouraged by this venture, not only progressive farmers, but the Panchayat Samiti Riyan has planted 20 vine saplings in its nursery. Each sapling is expected to yield 5 mds. of grapes and each farmer is expected to earn an additional amount of Rs. 800.

* * *

ALL TAXES COLLECTED

ALL THE 35 Gram Panchayats of the Sabhavaram Panchayat Samiti in Anakapalli taluk of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh have achieved the remarkable feat of collecting in full by 31st March the entire demand of taxes and fees for the year 1964. This is the fourth consecutive year, when such a remarkable feat has been repeated.

* * *

MULUG TO THE FORE

MULUG Panchayat Samiti in Andhra Pradesh has been adjudged the best Panchayat Samiti in Warangal District for the year 1963-64 and has won the cash prize of Rs. 10,000 only. During the year the Samiti made the best all-round progress in various fields of development work. Meetings of its various standing committees were held at least once in 1½ months and the percentage of attendance varied between 70 to 92. A noteworthy feature of these meetings was that all the decisions taken were unanimous. Mulug is the only area in Warangal District where cotton is being grown. The Samiti, therefore, made special efforts to popularize the long staple variety of Laxmi cotton. Steps were taken to establish a cotton ginning mill on cooperative basis at Mulug. The idea was to benefit the cotton growing ryots. So far, a sum of Rs. 2000 has been collected as share capital for the proposed mill. A scheme for aerial spraying of the paddy fields was formulated and the Samiti collected a sum of Rs. 5000 as contribution from the ryots. Besides constructing 60 new drinking water wells, the Samiti has taken up a scheme of protected water supply for Mulug at an estimated cost of Rs. 60,000 of which 12½ per cent will be contribution from the beneficiaries.

* * *

RAJASTHAN'S BEST SAMITI

THE SINDHAR Panchayat Samiti in Barmer district in Rajasthan was declared first in the State-level Panchayat Samiti Competition.

The Samiti has been awarded a grant of Rs. 25,000 and a further loan of Rs. 75,000 by the State Government.

The Samiti has resolved to spend Rs. 25,000 on tubewells and Rs. 75,000 for constructing 50 new wells. It is estimated that about 500 acres of additional land would be irrigated through these works.

* * *

SOIL CONSERVATION IN MAHARASHTRA

AS MANY as 92,125 acres of land has been brought under the soil conservation scheme since its inception in 1958, in Buldana district of Maharashtra. Of this area, about 30,650 acres were bunded during the year 1963-64. There are three sub-divisions in the district and 75 centres have been opened to carry on the soil conservation work. About Rs. 23 lakhs have been spent so far over the soil conservation work in the district.

This scheme has provided work to 10,000 workers and to 200 pairs of bullock daily during the last year. A sum of Rs. 36.48 lakhs has been earmarked for this scheme in the Third Plan.

* * *

REVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Rajasthan Government has decided to revise the Community Development Programme for giving top priority to the various production schemes. Programmes of the Panchayat Samitis will be reorganised to give greater fillip to food pro-

duction. Village production plans for all the villages in respective Panchayat Samiti areas would be drawn up. Great importance will be attached to the soil conservation programmes. Nine districts have been selected for intensive 'Merhbundi' drive. Awards will be given for the best 'Merhbundi' village. Members of the samitis, Panchayats and Government employees will adopt one village each for devoting individual attention to 'Merhbundi' work. Provision for loan for 'Merhbundi' has been made. Targets for contour bunding have also been fixed.

The State Government has decided to induce the farmers to use more fertilizers. Shri Ganganagar and Sawai Madhopur districts were selected for intensive manuring during 1963-64. As far as possible the distribution of fertilizers will be done by the Cooperative Societies. The distribution will be made in such a way that farmers can get it within a radius of 5 miles. An intensive Plant Protection Programme will be undertaken in Pali and Ganganagar districts. Every Panchayat Samiti in the area will be given one sprayer, one duster and one seed "breedum" for Plant protection.

The State Government has asked the Block Development Officers to undertake a survey of the damaged tanks and prepare repair estimates for commissioning them for irrigation. Instructions have been issued for early utilisation of funds available for sinking of wells and setting up pumping sets. Farmers will also lay out field channels in their respective areas to obtain optimum irrigation potential.

The State Government has also decided to divert funds earmarked for social services towards production programmes wherever possible.

* * *

RURAL HOUSING

As many as 3,894 houses under the Rural Housing Scheme have been constructed in Rajasthan during the first 3 years of the Third Five Year Plan against a target of 7000 houses. During the first 3 years of the Plan a sum of Rs. 31.83 lakhs has been spent under the Rural Housing Scheme which is 25 per cent of the Plan out-lay.

POWER CONNECTIONS TO AGRICULTURISTS

The U.P. Government have relaxed the rules for granting power connections to agriculturists who desire to instal their own tube-wells or pumping sets for irrigating their crops. They will no more be required to obtain a 'No Objection' certificate from the irrigation authorities for the purpose.

The authority for sanctioning power connections for irrigation purposes has been vested in the District Magistrates who will now sanction connections of 5 to 10 horse power on the basis of the area under cultivation of the applicant.

Persons having less than five acres of land under their own cultivation will be sanctioned connections of five horse power for pumping sets only. Those having 5 to 25 acres of land under their plough will also be sanctioned 5 horse power which could be used both for pumping sets or tube wells. Applicants cultivating between 25 to 75 acres of land will be eligible for 7.5 horse power connection while those having more than 75 acres of land under their own cultivation will be given connections of 10 horse power which could be utilised for pumping sets or tube-wells.

* * *

BEST IN SUGARCANE PRODUCTION

The village Cane Society of Sitapur (Jawalpur) in Saharanpur District has topped in the U.P. State Cane Competition of 1964-65 by producing 996 maunds of sugarcane per acre. The society will be awarded Rs. 11,000 which includes Rs. 1,000 of the zonal first prize of Rs. 5,000 each of the Range and the State first prizes.

The Society has decided to hand over the entire amount to Gram Samiti for Community Development work.

The scheme of Competition among village cane societies was included in the Cane Competition scheme of the State from 1962-63 season. This has given an impetus to nearly 36,000 cane cultivating villages to participate in the Competition, and thus leading to the stepping up of sugar-cane production.

From the Centre

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

A 52-MEMBER Consultative Council on Panchayati Raj, reflecting all shades of public opinion, has been constituted by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation, to act as a national forum and review the problem and progress of Panchayati Raj.

The council, headed by the Union Minister of Community Development and Cooperation Shri S. K. Dey, includes M.Ps., M.L.As., some eminent individuals and representatives of universities, the press, voluntary organisations, and of the Central and State Governments.

This body will, among other things, review progress in the implementation of Panchayati Raj with special reference to the adequacy of decentralisation, suggest measures for educating public opinion, advise on measures to ensure local initiative for the growth and consolidation of the movement. It will also make recommendations on training and research.

* * *

PANCHAYATI POSTAL SCHEME

IN THE POONA Division, Panchayati Postal scheme has been introduced with effect from October 2, 1963, in the beat of the village postman attached to Supa sub-post office. The beat comprised 35 villages which were getting twice a week service through the village postman. The post of village postman was replaced by three Extra-Departmental Delivery Agents and the Panchayati Postal scheme was extended to all the villages in the beat by setting up three Panchayati Postal centres at Bhondewai, Vadhane and Naroli, which are visited daily by the three E.D. Delivery Agents. As a result of the introduction of the scheme, all the villages get the benefit of daily delivery service and also posting facilities nearer at hand. During the three months of October to December, 1963, 9,967 postal articles have been delivered under the Panchayati Postal Scheme at Supa.

Under the scheme, Panchayati Postal centres are established at focal points to serve as convenient centres of transaction, i.e., for bringing and taking away of mail. Each Panchayati Postal Centre caters to a group of villages surrounding it and is manned by an agent provided by the village Panchayat. Simultaneously the villages served by each centre select a panel of volunteers, who in the normal course visit the centre on marketing or other errands for depositing and collecting of mail from the centre. The centre is controlled by a nearby post office, whose delivery staff visit the centre at fixed and regular intervals for bringing and taking away the mail.

Unregistered mail and intimations for accountable articles are handed over by the visiting delivery staff of the controlling post office to the Co-operative Agent. The residents of the village where the centre is located, themselves collect the mail from the Cooperative Agent at the centre, while the other villages in the group collect the same through their nominees. The Co-operative Agent is advanced a small sum of postage stamps and postal stationery for sale to the public. A letter box is installed at the centre and the postings therein are cleared and taken away by the visiting official from the controlling post office.

The accountable articles in respect of which intimations were served the previous day, are delivered by the visiting official (i.e., postman or E.D. Delivery Agent) direct to the addressees or their authorised agents who call at the Centre. The postman or E.D. Delivery Agent also books registered articles tendered by the public at the centre.

* * *

COOPERATIVES TO HELP BACKWARD CLASSES

DETAILED recommendations for the promotion of cooperation as a means of socio-economic development of the backward classes have been made by the State Ministers for Cooperation, Backward Classes and Social Welfare who met in New Delhi in the first week of May. The Conference, which was organised by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation, was also attended by representatives of the Union Ministries concerned, the Planning Commission, the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of India.

The Conference noted that, with some exceptions, cooperatives had not yet helped the backward classes to the extent desirable and it was agreed that the cooperative form of organisation offered excellent opportunities to ensure that the benefits of a large-scale operation and management reached these classes without curtailing their individual freedom.

So far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, the Conference was in favour of creating cooperative institutions at the primary level which, if necessary, should be nursed during their formative period by official or voluntary agencies. Other recommendations in regard to tribal people include the organisation of service cooperatives, the outright purchase of agricultural produce by marketing societies, the setting up of forest labour cooperatives and a phased programme for the development of suitable industries in tribal areas.

It was noted that a very small percentage of members in tribal areas received cooperative loans and a large number of societies were dormant. It was, therefore, necessary to undertake a programme to revitalise the existing societies. The Conference also felt that cooperative credit to tribals would be of little value unless their heavy burden of debt was reduced by debt relief and the regulation of money-lending. It was also necessary that government should provide guarantees in order to enable central cooperative banks to provide credit.

As regards Scheduled Castes, denotified Tribes and other backward classes, the Conference was of the view that separate societies for Scheduled Castes engaged in agriculture should not be organised; they should form part of the normal cooperative organisation. The service cooperatives should earmark funds for members belonging to Scheduled Castes on a reasonable basis. Another suggestion was that in order to induce the cooperative institutions to give loans to members of these communities, Government should guarantee losses up to 90 per cent of the loans in individual cases, subject to an overall limit of 10 per cent of the total advances made to these communities. Multi-purpose Societies might be formed for landless agricultural labourers, and loans might be advanced for traditional occupations such as poultry, dairying, piggery, basket-making, etc.

The Conference recommended that special attention should be paid to the problems of denotified Tribes in urban areas, and recommended a scheme for organising cooperatives for every city with a population of 1,000 or more belonging to the denotified Tribes. The Ministers also felt that wherever a sufficient number of persons were available for a particular trade or industry a separate industrial cooperative should be organised; otherwise a multi-craft industrial should be established.

The Conference recommended that assistance to the State Governments for setting up various types of cooperative organisations among backward classes should be outside the State Plan ceiling, as in the case of Centrally sponsored schemes. In order to encourage the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes to become members of cooperatives, Government should give loans to individual members for subscribing to the share capital of the societies on a substantial scale. In addition, Government should contribute to the share capital of the societies without insisting on matching contributions from members.

* * *

SUGAR PRODUCTION BY COOPERATIVES

THE COOPERATIVE sugar factories in the country produced 4.76 lakh metric tons of sugar till March 15, 1964. The production during the corresponding period last year was 3.66 lakh metric tons.

Out of the 57 cooperative sugar factories licensed so far, 45 factories started their crushing operations during 1963-64. These included the 5 new factories at Sanjivani and Kumbhi-Kasari in Maharashtra, Aska in Orissa, Batala in Punjab and Mannam in Kerala. The Amaravathi Cooperative Sugar Factory which was in operation last season, did not start work this year due to difficulties in the supply of cane. It is expected to start operations in June, 1964.

The cooperative sugar factories are manufacturing raw sugar this season also. Last season 8 cooperative sugar factories manufactured 0.81 lakh metric tons of raw sugar. This season 18 cooperative sugar factories, (16 in Maharashtra and 2 in Andhra Pradesh) have offered to manufacture about 1.47 lakh metric tons of raw sugar

for export on an F.A.S. price basis. The Government of India have accepted about 1.23 lakh metric tons offered by 14 cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra and directed them to manufacture raw sugar. Nearly 0.68 lakh metric tons of raw sugar has been manufactured up to February 29, 1964 as against 0.56 lakh metric tons last year up to the same date. The production of cooperative sugar factories this year (up to the end of February 1964) shows an increase of about 30.84% over that of last year for the same period, while the corresponding increase in the private sector is about 11.02 per cent and for the industry as a whole is 14.82 per cent.

* * *

COOPERATIVES IN TRIBAL AREAS

IMMEDIATE steps are proposed to be taken to develop cooperatives in tribal areas. During 1964-65, service cooperatives, forest labour cooperatives, labour contract societies and primary marketing societies will be organised in 119 Tribal Development Blocks. These steps follow the recommendations of the Working Group on Cooperation among Backward Classes. The Group had suggested formation of 1835 service cooperatives, 1835 forest labour cooperatives, 734 labour contract societies and 242 marketing societies in the various Tribal Blocks.

As the tribal cooperative development programme would now be confined to the remaining two years of the Third Plan, it may not be possible to implement all the recommendations of the Working Group. Initially, therefore, a few service and forest labour societies will be formed in 119 tribal blocks. In 1965-66, the backlog in the formation of societies in these blocks will be completed and the programme will be extended to another 212 blocks. The Tribal Blocks which organised in 1965-66 will come under the cooperative programme in the subsequent year.

Improved Methods help Larger Yields

(*Continued from page 9*)

bumper one and the best in the village. His success showed an upward trend. This year, he has made a name by producing 134 maunds of paddy per acre. So consistent has been Mishra's efforts to produce more that even during the year 1962-63 when the district was badly affected by drought and pests he produced 62½ maunds of paddy per acre from his fields.

To achieve such results naturally requires great perseverance, labour and keenness. These qualities in a cultivator will, however, yield greater results if he combines his own efforts with the improved methods of cultivation propagated by the Community Development Programme. This is what Anand Mohan actually did. He adopted the following improved techniques to obtain this remarkable result :

(i) He applied about 8 cart-loads of fully matured compost to his fields in the month of May and it was followed up by ploughing in.

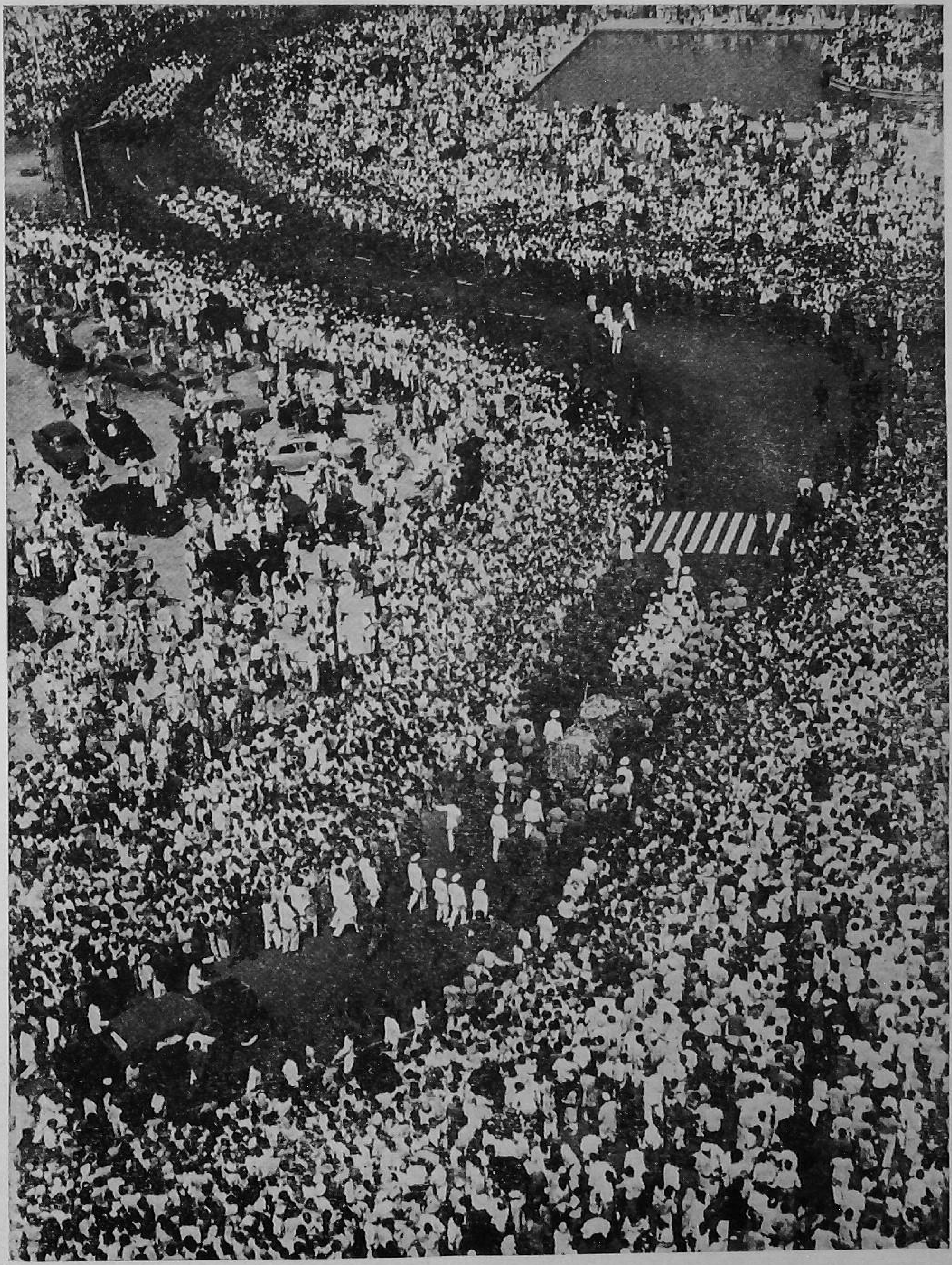
(ii) He used 20 seers of Dhaincha seed before the rains. When the plants were about 6″ high, they were ploughed in. In addition, he also used a cart-load of green 'Palas' leaves before ploughing.

(iii) The variety of seed used by Anand Mohan is known as 'Burmah Triple Cross' which is high yielding variety.

(iv) One hundred kilogram of Superphosphate were used at the time of puddling and fifty kilograms of Urea were used in 4 doses as top-dressing after transplantation of the seedling.

Anand Mohan Mishra's example has proved the fact that it is always within one's means to get the best out of his fields. Farmers of the area are now eager to emulate Mishra. They are keen to adopt improved methods of paddy cultivation in order to get larger yields.

L15DPD/64—GIPF.



Millions lined the route to have the last glimpse of their beloved leader as the funeral procession of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru passed on its way to Rajghat, Delhi.

Calm and serene, the body of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru is lying in state. Thousands of grief-stricken men, women and children paid their last homage to the departed leader. Seen in the picture at the extreme left is his daughter, Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation.

Regd. No. D—877.